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ana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 E 6th Ave
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701
August 26, 1994

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena 59620
Fish Wildlife and Parks
Resource Assessment
Fisheries Division
Regional Information Officers
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Jim Jenson, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Wildlife Federation, Box 1175, Helena, Mt 59624
Cascade County, County Commissioners
Heritage Park Committee
Hatchery Managers

Ladies and Gentlemen

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for A water conditioning facility at the Giant Springs Trout Hatchery, Great Falls, MT. The project is proposed on a site owned by FWP.

The Scope of the proposed work has been determined to be sufficient to initiate the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The items required in MEPA are identified on the EA checklist and addressed in comments where impacts may occur.

Any questions on this project should be addressed to the undersigned. Anyone wanting a public meeting on this proposal should also contact the undersigned. All comments should be forwarded by Sept. 26, 1994.

Sincerely,

Thurston Dotson
Fisheries Division
(406) 444-2447

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2535

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Title Giant Springs Trout Hatchery, Water Conditioning Plant

Division/Bureau Fisheries/Hatchery

Program Giant Springs Trout Hatchery

Description of Project Giant Springs Trout Hatchery water supply is high in nitrogen and low in oxygen. This project would construct a water conditioning plant to bring the water to atmospheric equilibrium. Also the open water supply is a source of bacteria which causes septicemia in young fish inside the hatchery building. This project will install water treatment to eliminate these organisms in the water supply to the hatchery. In addition the present pumping capacity is insufficient to supply all the water needs inside the hatchery building and pump redundancy is lacking for adequate safeguards to the hatchery water supply. This project would add pump redundancy and adequate capacity to efficiently operate the hatchery.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity & distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Social structures & mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness & diversity				X		
3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income			X			X
7. Access to & quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity & distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution & density of population & housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction None

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA Fish, Wildlife and Parks Hatchery Bureau.

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No significant impacts were identified through this review. Therefor an EIS is not required.

EA prepared by : Thurston Dotson Date: Aug. 19, 1994

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats. Fish stocked from this facility after this project is completed will be of higher quality and more able to withstand the rigors of the natural conditions. This circumstance should provide for more assured establishment of reproducing populations and/or better return to the sportsmen.

4. Aesthetics. The structure needed to house the water conditioning plant will moderately change the appearance of the hatchery. However, any building design will be complementary to the existing architectural theme of the hatchery.

7. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy. Additional electrical power will be required during construction and for operational needs after construction. The additional power demands of this project are minimal can be met by existing service facilities.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income. During construction some additional income from construction employment and suppliers of equipment and construction materials will be realized.

8. Quantity & distribution of employment. Some additional construction employment is expected during the brief 90 day construction period.

12. Demands for energy. A minor increase in electrical power will be required during construction and operation after construction. Also some additional fossil fuels will be needed to power construction equipment during construction. The needs for additional energy is well within present facilities and systems to provide.

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